

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02678 01 OF 02 260000Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 /009 W
-----260014Z 115838 /13
R 252140Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4054

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 2678

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FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: ROLE OF NARCOTICS ADVISORS

REF: STATE 085325

BEGIN LOU

1. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND TO THE EMBASSY'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL. THIS MISSION HAS FOUR NARCOTICS PROJECTS, TWO OF WHICH ARE SUPPLY REDUCTION PROGRAMS. THE OTHER TWO ARE DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS. (A) SUPPLY REDUCTION PROJECTS: ONE IS AN INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING PROJECT WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE (\$159,000), AND A SIMILAR PROJECT WITH THE CUSTOMS MILITARY POLICE (\$85,000). (B) DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS: TWO PROJECTS, ONE WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (\$57,800) AND ONE WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (\$65,000). (ALL MONETARY FIGURES ARE BASED ON THE FY 77-80 NARCOTICS CONTROL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NCAP).) THE PROJECTS ARE MANAGED BY TWO USAID/USDH NARCOTICS ADVISORS AND TWO PASA

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CUSTOMS ADVISORS AND BY FOUR ECUADOREAN EMPLOYEES.

2. WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE GOOD MIX OF PROGRAMS IN ATTEMPTING TO REACH US OBJECTIVES. WE ARE ALSO SATISFIED WITH THE INCREASE IN GOE CAPACITY IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT FIELD WHICH HAS RESULTED PRINCIPALLY FROM INPUTS MADE BY USAID'S PROGRAMS. THE USAID NARCOTICS

CONTROL DIVISION (NCD) AND ESPECIALLY ITS FOUR US OFFICERS ARE WELL TRAINED AND WELL MOTIVATED, AND MAINTAIN GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH THEIR ECUADOREAN COUNTERPARTS.

END LOU.

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3. WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH GOE PERFORMANCE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN ARRESTS AND SEIZURES. LACK OF WILL AND CORRUPTION HAVE HAMPERED THE POLICE IN REACHING A PERFORMANCE LEVEL COMENSURATE WITH ITS INCREASED CAPACITY IN TERMS OF MATERIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES DESIGNATED FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WORK. THE DEMAND REDUCTION PROJECTS ARE AIMED AT HEIGHTENING ECUADOREAN AWARENESS OF ITS DOMESTIC NARCOTIC PROBLEM AND THEREBY INCREASING THE INCENTIVE OF THE ECUADOREAN POLICE TO ACT WITH MORE ALACRITY IN THE OVERALL SEIZURE OF NARCOTICS. FOR THE SHORTER TERM, THE AMBASSADOR HAS MET WITH THE MINISTER OF GOVT T DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF POLICE CORRPUTION, AND THE DCM, WHO IS THE MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, DEA AND AID OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN URGING AT ALL LEVELS IMPROVEMENT IN POLICE PERFORMANCE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT.

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4. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO PARA 4 OF REFTEL.
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A. THE TWO USAID/USDH NCD OFFICERS HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING THE OVERALL NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT AND, IN ADDITION, ARE PROJECT MANAGERS FOR THE NATIONAL POLICE PROJECTS. IN THESE AFOREMENTIONED AREAS, THEY PERFORM VERY WELL. THEY ARE BOTH EXPERIENCED FORMER POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS.

THE TWO PASA CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE NEWLY ARRIVED. TO DATE, WE HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE.

AS STATED ABOVE, WE HAVE TWO NOVEL PROJECTS WHICH HAVE RECEIVED SOME PRAISE FROM WASHINGTON AND WHICH SEEM TO BE ACHIEVING THEIR PURPOSE OF HEIGHTENED AWARENESS WITHIN THE ECUADOREAN COMMUNITY. WITH REGARD TO THESE TWO PROJECTS, THE PERSONNEL IN THE NCD OF THE USAID ARE INSUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO BE ABLE TO DO THE PLANNING AND MANAGING. WE HAVE FELT THAT YOUNGER AND BROADER-GUAGED DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS, WITH MORE TRAINING IN NON-LAW ENFORCE-

MENT ASPECTS OF DRUG CONTROL, WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO
MANAGE AND IMPLEMENT SUCH DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAMS.

B. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASE
OF THE NATIONAL POLICE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE
USAID NCD AS SUPERVISED BY THE USAID DIRECTOR AND ASST DIR.

THE REINSTATED CUSTOMS PROJECT HAS BEEN PRINCIPALLY
PLANNED AND DEVELOPED BY THE TWO PASA CUSTOMS ADVISORS.

THE INITIAL, PRINCIPAL PLANNING OF THE MINISTRIES OF
HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROJECTS WERE ORIGINALLY THE CONCEPT
OF THE USAID MISSION DIRECTOR. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE
TWO PROJECTS WAS IN LARGE PART THE EFFORT OF THE CHIEF,
USAID FAMILY HEALTH DIV AND THE CHIEF, USAID EDUCATION
DIV. THEY WERE ASSISTED IN THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
BY THE CHIEF USAID/USDH NARCOTICS ADVISORS. ASSIGNMENT
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AND MONITORING OF THESE TWO PROGRAMS ARE BEING CARRIED
OUT BY THE TWO USAID NARCOTICS ADVISORS SINCE THE USAID
IS A PHASEOUT MISSION AND NO LONGER HAS SPECIFIC CAPACITY
IN THE FIELDS OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

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-----260015Z 115860 /13
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 2678

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FOR S/NM

C&D. BOTH THE USAID NARCOTICS ADVISORS AND THE PASA CUSTOMS PERSONNEL ARE VETERANS IN NARCOTICS CONTROL AND IN DEALING WITH HOST COUNTRY AGENCIES. THEY ARE EFFECTIVE AS INSTRUMENTS OF LIAISON WITH HOST COUNTRY AGENCIES FOR NORMAL, ROUTINE CONTACT. HOWEVER, THE MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, WHO IS ALSO THE DCM, THE AID DIRECTOR, AND THE DEA/SAIC PLAY THE PRINCIPAL ROLE IN PROBLEM SOLVING WITH THE HIGHER HOST COUNTRY AGENCY OFFICIALS.

E. THE NARCOTICS ADVISORS DEVOTE THE MAJOR PORTION OF THEIR TIME TO OFFERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND TO ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND DESIRE OF HOST COUNTRY OFFICERS TO ACTIVELY PURSUE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. THE ADVISORS HAVE BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN INDUCING THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THEIR CAPABILITIES. THE GOE'S INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS HAS NOT RESULTED IN A COMMENSURATE INCREASE IN ARRESTS AND SEIZURES, HOWEVER.

F. TO NOS. 1, 2 AND 3, THE ANSWER IS AFFIRMATIVE. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING SUPPORT, THEY ARE CHARGED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND TO THAT EXTENT, THEY OFFER DIRECTION TO THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE NARCOTICS ADVISORS AND THE PASA CUSTOMS ADVISORS ARE MEMBERS OF SAID COMMITTEE. THEY PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AT ALL MEETINGS AND ON ALL ISSUES.

G. THEY REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE USAID MISSION DIRECTOR AND THROUGH HIM TO THE NARCOTICS COORDINATOR. GUIDANCE IS RECEIVED PRINCIPALLY FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR BUT ULTIMATELY FROM THE COORDINATOR. THE GUIDANCE IS CONDITIONED UPON THE JUDGMENTS OF THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

H. WE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK TO WASHINGTON FOR NEW IDEAS IN PROGRAMS AND METHODS OF OPERATION WHICH WOULD REDUCE CORRUPTION AND ENHANCE THE WILL OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ARRESTS AND SEIZURES. OUR PRINCIPAL PROBLEM WITH WASHINGTON IS THAT APPROVAL OF THE NCAP IS USUALLY DELAYED, THEREBY SLOWING DOWN OUR ABILITY TO SIGN PROJECT AGREEMENTS AND PROCEED WITH THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. (FY 77-80 NCAP WAS SUBMITTED AUG. 5, 1976; WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM WASHINGTON FOR IT. THE BASIC FOUR PROJECT AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND APPROVED BY THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE, BUT MUST AWAIT WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF THE NCAP BEFORE SIGNING AN IMPLEMENTATION.)

I. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MINOR DIFFERENCES OCCASIONALLY
BETWEEN DEA AND THE USAID NARCOTICS ADVISORS, WE ARE
SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL COORDINATION AND COOPERATION.
THE EMBASSY PLANS TO CO-LOCATE THE AID/NCD AND DEA THIS
SUMMER, AND WE BELIEVE THIS WILL DO MUCH TO ASSURE UNITY
OF ACTION AND PURPOSE.

J. PLEASE NOTE PARA A -- THE NEED FOR BROADER-GUAGED
OFFICERS IN DEMAND REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.

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